

Fort Monroe's
Directorate of Public Works

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
Q&A

Fort Monroe's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) is a five year plan covering from November 2000 to April 2005. The purpose of the INRMP is to ensure that natural resource conservation measures are integrated into Army activities and are consistent with federal stewardship requirements. It is designed to maintain and improve sustainability as well as enhance native ecosystems biodiversity and preserve historic resources.

What stipulates the requirement for developing an INRMP?

What plans are integrated in the INRMP?

What are BayScapes?

What are natural areas?

Is Fort Monroe a bird sanctuary?

Does Fort Monroe have Threaten and Endangered Species?

What stipulates the requirement for developing an INRMP?

It was established under the legal authority of the Sites Act Improvement Act (16 USC sec. 670 et. seq., as amended); supplemental guidance of Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 4715.3; Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement; 32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; and AR 200-3, Natural Resources – Land, Forest and wildlife Management.

What plans are integrated in the INRMP?

The following component plans are incorporated into the INRMP: the Urban Forestry Plan (UFP), the Landscaping Planting Plan (LPP), the Fort Monroe Tree Ordinance, the USFWS 2003 and 2005 Floral Surveys, the 1998 Bio Diversity Survey of Flora and Fauna, the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), and the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). Consolidating all natural resources management components into one document and using sound interdisciplinary approaches to ecosystem management accomplishes the following:

- Essential mission objectives and potential current/future land use conflicts will be simultaneously evaluated;
- Directorate of Public Works (DPW) will be able to integrate planning activities with the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP), the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), the Historical Architectural Repair and Maintenance Plan, and the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP);

- Management practices will result in restoration of critical habitats, conservation of biodiversity, and quality of life improvements for post residents, visitors, post employees and contractors.

What is the purpose of the INRMP?

Many of the challenges facing Fort Monroe include monitoring and restoring coastal ecosystems which have eroded over the years. The predominant theme of the INRMP is to return as much of the ecosystem at Fort Monroe as practicable to environmentally beneficial landscapes comprised of the native flora of the Chesapeake Bay. This is performed by including the following components: land management, landscaping, grounds maintenance, fish and wildlife management, watershed management, coastal zone management, outdoor recreation, soil conservation, urban forestry, pest management, cultural resources and geographic information systems. These components allow Fort Monroe to conduct natural and cultural resources management in a manner that recognizes, restores and sustains the composition, structure and function of the natural communities and biota of Fort Monroe.

What are BayScapes?

BayScaping is a management practice that is critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay by reestablishing native flora on Fort Monroe. BayScape plantings are consistent with the cultural resources component, since the native flora of the 1800s (ostensibly the original native flora of the Chesapeake) were used extensively on the post. Native plants are beneficial because they are drought resistant, requiring less water to maintain, and are less affected by pests thus reducing pesticide usage on post. They are more salt tolerant and can withstand emersion which non-native species can not. This was evident after Hurricane Isabel in 2003. Since then, Baycaping plants have been used extensively on Fort Monroe.

What are natural areas?

Most of Fort Monroe has been disturbed and altered by human activities. However, some natural areas do exist. An 85-acre salt marsh located in Mill Creek and 1300-foot strip of beach along the Chesapeake Bay are the only natural areas remaining on the 570 acre property.

Is Fort Monroe a bird sanctuary?

Because of our location, the post has a diverse and abundant bird population. Of the 411 species of birds known in Virginia, 217 are found on the Post. Of these, 68 species use the area as their breeding grounds. One of the prominent species found on Fort Monroe is the Yellow-Crown Night Heron which nests in trees overhanging sidewalks, confusing the sidewalks with streams where they prefer to nest. They typically arrive in March and leave in September. Another bird seen on occasion is the Piping Plover, which can be seen feeding along Dog Beach. Both birds are a protected species. In fact, every bird on Post is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act with the exception of house sparrows, starlings and pigeons.

Does Fort Monroe have Threatened or Endangered Species?

No. Fort Monroe does not have any federally listed threatened or endangered species nesting on post, but you may see Bald Eagle hunting along Mill Creek and the Chesapeake Bay in both the spring and fall.